

# NEWS and GOSSIP of WASHINGTON



## Squirrel's Thirst Almost Cost Animal Its Life

WASHINGTON.—If your friends include a country squirrel whose home address is a nut tree, with a running stream for neighbor, you will know that, as a good provider, his name is Hoover. But there are always others—this one, for instance, who has found a champion in a kindly big brother, named Man.

"While sitting in Stanton park early Sunday morning last a squirrel ran down one of the trees near the park fountain, and after first trying to get water at the hose connection near by, he failed to satisfy his thirst and thereupon made for the fountain itself and dashed over the wall of the basin into about a foot of water. He followed the wall of the fountain basin and I soon saw that he was not going to be able to get out of his predicament. I hailed the street lighter and he got him out with his stick. He tells me this happens frequently in summer time and that he often takes them out of the fountain in a very exhausted condition.

"But to get back to the story—the squirrel was no sooner rescued than he made off for the same tree which he had descended a moment before, and as my eyes followed him in his ascent they rested on something in the forks of the tree which proved to be a flask a little more than half full of whisky. This fact, coupled with the animal's thirst, certainly makes out a good case by circumstantial evidence. However, this, of course, is a mere coincidence and has nothing to do with the chilling effect of the squirrel's early morning bath or his abnormal thirst, for he seemed to be a perfectly sober and respectable squirrel, and there is no doubt in my mind but that the afore-said hidden treasure really belonged to another and entirely different kind of animal. Still one cannot help but wonder if the owner of the bottle would not take quite as great a risk to secure a drink from either it or the fountain so early on a Sunday morning, or which animal is really the more reckless of his future.

"If you will absorb this little story, which is a true one, it may bring about the provision of means whereby the squirrels may be able to get out of the fountains, which ought to be done. It is not pleasant to think of their swimming themselves to death on some occasion."



## Women Displacing Men in the National Capital

LURED by thousands of vacancies in the federal departments and private institutions as a result of war, women are flocking to Washington in such numbers that the capital is in danger of being overrun with them. Few men are seeking jobs but the women are applying for hundreds of newly created positions in the various government branches and taking the places vacated by men who have been or will be called to the colors.

Already Washington was a city of women. The percentage of women, according to the census of 1910, was larger than in any other large city in the country. The figures demonstrated that then there were 91.3 men for every 100 women. The prediction

is made that with a continuance of the war for a year or more there will be two women for every man in the city.

One member of congress from Virginia said that he had assisted more than 100 women from among his constituency to obtain employment in the public service during the last few months.

Recently four cabinet officers—Secretaries Lansing, Baker, Daniels and Redfield—announced that women would be appointed in their departments in preference to men. This policy was adopted as a military precaution; the men are needed for duty on the firing line and in the process of mobilization of the nation's resources. It is probable that the other departments are doing the same, although without public announcement.

## Many Reasons Why War Nurses Should Be Slim

SUGGESTIONS for reforms of every kind are being received daily by the Council of National Defense. Now a movement is on to "reform" fat nurses. A group of Chicago women, who want the government to construct a camp for intensive reducing, has recently put the question up to the women's committee of the Council of National Defense.

Fat at the front—that is the battle front—is considered a serious handicap, in the view of women.

Nurses to be most efficient should be no more than properly plump; there is no necessity of their being perfect thirty-sixes, but when they are forty-seven or forty-eights that is too much. Besides the smaller sizes please the wounded soldiers better. But there is another consideration which has come into the minds of officials. It is the necessity of conserving all space possible aboard steamers in the transatlantic service.

A 50-pound reduction for every one of 1,000 nurses, might readily save the transportation expenses of 25 tons.

The Chicago women declared that the camps the government should establish in various sections of the country where nurses could reduce should be similar to those for soldiers.

The courses should be of from two to six months' duration, according to the size of the nurse. Then, fully reduced, they would be ready for France, or could better withstand the strain of field service.

But after all has been said, to the patient in the cot the plump and jolly nurse, with ever-ready smile, will be for all time the one in demand.



## Fenced-In Botanical Grounds Mar the Landscape

"WHEN I behold Washington arrayed in its livery of green it seems to me that every citizen of the United States should have for it the passionate attachment which the Athenian Greek had for the 'sacred-crowned city,'" said Paul De Lavigne, an artist of New York city, at the Willard. "There are in all directions vistas and visions of surpassing loveliness and beauty. The view from the capitol across the Potomac to the blue Virginia hills is, in my opinion, unequalled. Much has been said and written of the beauty of Paris, the City of Mexico, Florence, Italy, and Constantinople. Washington surpasses them all.

"There is one blur, however, on the landscape. The fenced-in botanical grounds of the government may wear this uniform of red, white and blue, which the patternmakers declare is as useful as it is pretty. It is of inexpensive material, cotton cloth, with detachable cuffs, spreads out like a sheet for ironing and has a double front. It is fastened by two straps from the front panels which meet in the back and button with one large button.



## ELECTRICITY IS A BIG FACTOR IN WAR

Every "Big Bertha" in World Conflict Is Fired by Pressing a Button.

## WIRELESS IS ALWAYS BUSY

Invention Stimulated by Demands of War—Trench Orders Given by Telephone—Magnets Take Place of Surgeon's Probe.

New York.—Electricity, child of peace, has been adopted by war as its own especial ward. Without electricity this war could never have reached the proportions which it has; perhaps could never have been fought at all. Every "Big Bertha" is fired by an electric spark. Every order from headquarters reaches the trenches, not by courier as in days of old, but by telephone. The wireless crackles a staccato accompaniment to every sailing of ship and submarine. The torpedo itself is propelled by electric motors.

Invention has been stimulated almost hysterically by the demands of war. Armies on the march or in the field have now a hundred conveniences which were not known last year. There is a radio telephone and telegraph equipment, for instance, which can be attached to a motorcycle. It was given to America only a little while ago by a New York inventor. The transmitting power is approximately one kilowatt, with a resultant radius for the wireless telegraph of from 80 to 100 miles and about half that distance for the radio telephone.

Current for this compact field set is supplied to the telephone or telegraph by a high voltage direct current generator connected directly to an independent motorcycle engine connected with the side car. For the equipment is contained in a small metal side car attached to the cycle.

**Wireless Equipment.** The wireless equipment comprises a completely independent unit, which can easily be detached and pushed by hand or loaded on a wagon and transported over rough ground. An extra wheel is provided which can be attached to either hub of the side car or to the front or rear of the motorcycle. The antenna is supported by a lightweight metal mast of tubular construction. The telescopic form of it makes it possible to collapse the mast and strip it out of the way on the car's side. And when erected, it can take messages from field and airplanes with equal ease.

The French have developed the wireless to a fine point. They now have what they call an "ondophone" detector for receiving messages, the value of which lies in its small size and extremely compact makeup. The whole affair, as a matter of fact, can be carried in an officer's breast pocket.

With this little detector at a distance of 20 miles from the transmitter all that is needed is an open umbrella held as high as the hand can reach—or a sword, if you prefer—while a small metal contact piece connected to a cord lies upon the ground and makes the earth circuit. At 60 miles one need only plant a knife in a tree, preferably a pine tree, or a gimlet will answer as well. One of the cords with its metal clip is attached to this "antenna" while the other clip is placed in the ground. The entire receiver weighs but 13 ounces and yet in spite of its size it is meticulously made and is a most accurate apparatus.

**For Long-Distance Work.** For long distance, for instance to the extreme borders of France, one clip is joined to a telephone line which serves as an antenna and the other goes to gas or water pipes for the

## CONSERVATION COSTUME



Women who sign the conservation pledge of the food administration board of the government may wear this uniform of red, white and blue, which the patternmakers declare is as useful as it is pretty. It is of inexpensive material, cotton cloth, with detachable cuffs, spreads out like a sheet for ironing and has a double front. It is fastened by two straps from the front panels which meet in the back and button with one large button.

ground. But at a smaller distance there can be a wider choice for antennae—a kitchen stove, a balcony, a metal bed or the like, or even a bicycle or an automobile. The operator may use his own body for the ground by attaching the metal clip to his finger, while the other clip goes to the telephone wire. In this way signals have reached Paris from a distance of no less than 270 miles.

Most interesting of all, perhaps, and particularly so from a constructive viewpoint, is the invention of an electrical contrivance to remove particles of metal from wounds. This has not come, directly from the war, either, though it is being used there now in the best of the base hospitals. It came from Pittsburgh, from the factories which have been furnishing practically all of the barbed wire for the allies' entrenchments.

This machine is a powerful electric magnet that is taking the place of the surgeon's painful and perilous probe, and it is one to save countless lives and untold agony. The removal of pieces of shrapnel, steel-jacketed bullets and other metal substances from wounds by use of powerful electromagnets in the war zone hospitals has been acclaimed as the very latest application of science to surgery.

## EDITOR'S INITIALS CUT OUT

Employees in Italian Censor's Bureau Didn't Understand American Newspaper Ways.

Rome.—The Italian censor's office has been baffled for two years in an effort to discover the meaning of little groups of letters and dashes, such as "xyz-wtv," and so on, which appear at the ends of news items sent out by the Associated Press in New York and remained from there to the Associated Press correspondents from whom the items came.

These marks are the initials of the writer, editor or manufacturer of the item, but apparently the employees of the censor's bureau suspected they conveyed some mystic meaning, for when received by the correspondent here they have often been cut out of the pages, or carefully obliterated with ink or, sometimes, the entire batch of mail is withheld for two or three months at a time.

The latter is the favorite method pursued by the censor's office for preventing information of a harmful nature from being disseminated. It is not unusual for news cables or business dispatches of a nature seemingly suspicious to be quietly forwarded a week or so after the sender has forgotten having filed them.

On the whole, however, from an American point of view, there has been little complaint regarding either cables or mails, considering the activity of spies of Italy. Most of the complaints are made editorially by Italian newspapers which, when news is dull, print long tirades declaring that the censor is suppressing interesting news.

## JAILED FOR APING PRIEST

Heretic Sermon Sends French Soldier-Swindler to Prison for a Year.

Paris.—A soldier named Taillebois has been sentenced by court-martial to a year's imprisonment and 250 francs fine for impersonating a Catholic priest and swindling Catholics.

Taillebois is not a Catholic. He assumed the name of Father Henry, gained the confidence of a number of priests and parishioners of Orleans and the surrounding country, officiated in several churches and chapels, heard confessions, administered communion in many communes, all the while receiving money for masses and for charitable objects. His downfall came from an attempt to preach in a church at St. Jean le Blanc. The cure of the commune found his doctrine was not altogether Catholic and asked for information regarding the wandering priest from Monsignor Gibler, bishop of Versailles, who exposed the swindler.

## CIVIL WAR VETERAN, 74, WANTS TO ENLIST

Atlanta.—You can't tell W. A. Ellis that he isn't as good a man at seventy-four as he was 50 years ago, when he ranged half a dozen countries as a soldier of fortune, and led a company of Georgia volunteers through the war between the states.

Mr. Ellis, an inmate of the Old Soldiers' home, wants to enter the service of his country, and to help beat the kaiser. So far he has not been able to induce recruiting officers in any branch to accept him. Until two years ago he was a resident of Griffin, except when he was fighting for the Confederacy or with Lee Christmas, the famous filibuster, in Central America and Mexico.

## Eagle Stole First Papers.

Greeley, Neb.—Lawrence Maier is searching over Greeley county for his naturalization papers. An eagle took the document from his coat while Maier was working in a field. Maier has petitioned the naturalization department at Washington to grant the clerk of the district court here permission to release the papers.

## FOOD ECONOMIES URGED BY HOOVER

Cardinal Principles of Campaign for Conservation of Supplies Set Forth.

## MILLION SIGN FOOD PLEDGES

Less Wheat, Meat, Milk, Fats, Sugar and Fuel and More Fruit and Vegetables Suggested by the Food Administrator.

Washington.—The food economies which Herbert C. Hoover of the food administration desires to suggest to the American people have been officially promulgated.

They constitute the cardinal principles of the food campaign as are set forth in clear type on a small card in terms so definite and concise that all will know exactly what and how to save.

This food administration card will soon hang in every American kitchen and its directions will be followed with scrupulous care by the home makers of the land. Already the appeal has met with a generous response. The information is at hand that a million food pledges have already been signed.

A reading of the card, which is printed in full below, shows that to follow its suggestions entails no real hardships. The rules are concise and simple. Less wheat, meat, milk, fats, sugar and fuel. More vegetables, foods that are not suitable to be sent to camps or firing lines. No limiting the food of growing children; not eating by anyone of more food than is needed. Buying food that is grown close to the home.

Is any of this too hard?  
**WIN THE WAR BY GIVING YOUR OWN DAILY SERVICE.**

**Save the Wheat.**—One wheatless meal a day. Use corn, oatmeal, rye or barley bread and non-wheat breakfast foods. Order bread 24 hours in advance so your baker will not bake beyond his needs. Cut the loaf on the table and only as required. Use stale bread for cooking, toast, etc. Eat less cake and pastry.

**Our wheat harvest is far below normal.** If each person weekly saves one pound of wheat flour that means 150,000,000 more bushels of wheat for the allies to mix in their bread. This will help them to save democracy.

**Save the Meat.**—Beef, mutton or pork not more than once daily. Use freely vegetables and fish. At the meat meal serve smaller portions, and stews instead of steaks. Make made dishes of all left-overs. Do this and there will be meat enough for everyone at a reasonable price.

**We are today killing the dairy cows and female calves as the result of high prices.** Therefore, eat less and eat no young meat. If we save an ounce of meat each day per person, we will have additional supply equal to 2,400,000 cattle.

**Save the Milk.**—The children must have milk. Use every drop. Use buttermilk and sour milk for cooking and making cottage cheese. Use less cream.

**Save the Fats.**—We are the world's greatest fat wasters. Fat is food. Butter is essential for the growth and health of children. Use butter on the table as usual but not in cooking. Other fats are as good. Reduce use of fried foods. Soap contains fats. Do not waste it. Make your own washing soap at home out of the saved fats.

**Use one-third ounce less per day of animal fat and 375,000 tons will be saved yearly.**

**Save the Sugar.**—Sugar is scarce. We use today three times as much per person as our allies. So there may be enough for all at reasonable price, use less candy and sweet drinks. Do not stint sugar in putting up fruit and jams. They will save butter.

**If everyone in America saves one ounce of sugar daily, it means 1,100,000 tons for the year.**

**Save the Fuel.**—Coal comes from a distance, and our railways are overburdened hauling war material. Help relieve them by burning fewer fires. Use wood when you can get it.

**Use the Perishable Foods.**—Fruits and vegetables we have in abundance. As a nation we eat too little green stuffs. Double their use and improve your health. Store potatoes and other roots properly and they will keep. Begin now to can or dry all surplus garden products.

**Use Local Supplies.**—Patronize your local producer. Distance means money. Buy perishable food from the neighborhood nearest you and thus save transportation.

**GENERAL RULES.**  
Buy less, serve smaller portions.  
Preach the "Gospel of the Clean Plate."  
Don't eat a fourth meal.  
Don't limit the plain food of growing children.  
Watch out for the wastes in the community.

Full garbage pails in America mean empty dinner pails in America and Europe.

If the more fortunate of our people will avoid waste and eat no more than they need, the high cost of living problem of the less fortunate will be solved.

## POULTRY



## PRODUCING EGGS IN SUMMER

Better Methods of Caring for Eggs and Proper Packing Would Reduce Needless Loss.

Losses in eggs during the summer months fall directly upon the farmers. Dealers know that an average of 15 to 18 per cent of eggs marketed during the summer is either a total or a partial loss; hence prices, they say, are based upon good eggs only.

Better methods of caring for the eggs and better packing before they are shipped would reduce this unnecessary loss.

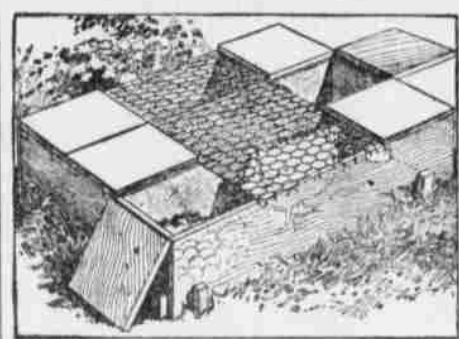
A few definite rules for the prevention of loss in summer eggs are formulated by the poultry division at the Pennsylvania State college: (1) Produce sterile or infertile eggs. (2) Keep eggs in a cool, dry place. (3) Have clean nests and plenty of them. (4) Do not keep the eggs near kerosene or decaying vegetables. They absorb odors readily. (5) Market the eggs frequently. Holding does not improve quality.

## KEEP MOTHER HEN CONFINED

Loss of Chicks by Exposure Largely Preventable by Keeping Hen in Ventilated Coop.

It is not good poultry management to allow the mother hen to range unrestricted with her chicks. With such freedom the hen frequently takes her brood through wet grass and, as a result, some are chilled and die, especially the weaker ones, which are likely to be left behind. The loss of young chicks which follows such a practice is large and mainly preventable. Furthermore, the food which a brood allowed to range with the hen obtains goes very largely to keep up the heat of the body and the chicks do not make as good growth as they otherwise would.

Chick losses of this nature can be largely prevented by shutting the hen in a coop. Any style of coop which is dry, ventilated and can be closed at night to protect the brood against cats, rats and other animals, and



Mother Hen in Coop.

which, while confining the hen, will allow the chicks to pass in and out freely after they are a few days old, will be satisfactory. The hen should be confined until the chicks are weaned, though a small yard may be attached to the coop, if desired, to allow the hen to exercise. The fence can be raised from the ground far enough to allow the chicks to go in or out, but not high enough for the hen to escape. By using a coop the chicks can find shelter and warmth under the hen at any time and the weaklings, after a few days, may develop into strong, healthy chicks.

## STRICT STANDARD FOR EGGS

When Well-Established Produce of First-Class, Fresh Article Will Bring Highest Price.

(By C. S. ANDERSON, Colorado Agricultural College, Fort Collins.)

The day of standardization in the egg market is here. When eggs sold for a cent apiece, the claim "an egg is an egg" was accepted. With our present increased prices, the consumer naturally is asking for greater quality and higher standardization in the products he buys.

A number of our best markets are now demanding that eggs shall weigh at least 24 ounces per dozen. They must stand a candling test, be clean, uniform in size, shape and color of shell.

When rigid standards are well established the producer of first-class fresh eggs will receive a premium and will no longer have his prices governed by the ungraded, poorly handled product.

## PICK FEATHERS FROM GEESE

As Soon as Fowl Is Killed Dip It in Hot Water Three Times, Then Wrap in Blanket.

Much of the trouble experienced when picking geese may be avoided if the goose, as soon as dead, is dipped in water almost at the boiling point three times and then wrapped tightly in a blanket or other material which will hold the steam. This will thoroughly steam the feathers and down, so that it will come off easily. Don't allow the goose to remain wrapped up more than a full minute.